

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of **S.B. 522**, An Act Authorizing Bear Hunting in Connecticut for the following reasons:

Passing this bill will allow state wildlife biologists to manage the bear population through **REGULATED** hunting. The amount of data available from population studies allows our biologists to set harvest goals ensuring the sustainability and perpetuation of bears in Connecticut. **REGULATED** hunting is proven to be the most effective and efficient way to manage wildlife populations.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation consists is the most successful conservation in the entire planet. This model is made up of seven pillars and all of which are essential to ensuring healthy population. Hunting is an essential component of this model which is dictated on science. In this case, our have biologists have used science to determine that regulated harvest is not only sustainable but prudent.

Additionally, passing this bill will allow the wildlife division to protect the public from possible danger due to the increasing nuisance bear population. Currently, bears are moving into more urban areas. Bears are very adaptable and quickly learn that household trash, animal feeders and even food storage can be an easier meal than the hunting and foraging in the wild. Once a bear learns that close proximity to humans also means easy meals they become habituated and essentially lose all fear of humans often resulting in safety concerns for our states citizens and unfortunately euthanization for the bear.

We should follow the advice of **DEEP** wildlife biologists. This is a simple decision and it should be made using science not sentiment.

Sincerely,

Herb Sobanski Jr.

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